

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 T-03 AID-20 MC-02 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EA-11 RSR-01 /133 W
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O R 151229 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8356

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2186

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS PK, IN

SUBJ: BHUTTO SPEAKS ON LIFTING OF US ARMS EMBARGO

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESUMPTION
LIMITED US ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN, PRESIDENT BHUTTO
URGED INDIA NOT TO " OVER- REACT" TO US ACTION.
PAKISTAN WISHED LIVE IN PEACE WITH INDIA, HE SAID,
AND SETTLE DISPUTES HONORABLY. WOULD BE
USELESS FOR GOI TO THREATEN USG OVER THIS DECISION
SINCE SUPERPOWERS CANNOT BE DICTATED TO. PRESIDENT
STATED US/ PAKISTAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT STILL VALID
ALTHOUGH USG HAD NOT MET ITS FULL TREATY OBLIGATIONS.
ASSERTING THAT US ARMS WILL BE USED ONLY FOR
PAKISTAN ' S DEFENSE, HE CHARGED THAT IT WAS INDIA
RATHER THAN PAKISTAN WHICH HAD COMMITTED AGGRESSION.
END SUMMARY

1. SPEAKING TO POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE AT SIHALA ON
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MORNING MARCH 15, VERY SHORTLY AFTER FIRST NEWS REPORTS ON LIFTING US ARMS EMBARGO WERE RELEASED, BHUTTO COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON US DECISION. ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATED PRESS PAKISTAN, HE URGED INDIA " IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE OF THE SUBCONTINENT" NOT TO " OVER- REACT" TO US MOVE. USG HAD TAKEN " SMALL DECISION" TO RESUME SUPPLY TO MILITARY SPARE PARTS " WE NEED BADLY" PLUS SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT. PAKISTAN WISHED LIVE AT PEACE WITH INDIAGN HE EMPHASIZED, AND SETTLE DISPUTES HONORABLY AND EQUITABLY.

2. CONTINUING, PRESIDENT SAID IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR INDIA, RATHER THAN LETTING " DUST SETTLE", TO GET UPSET AND START ISSUING THREATENING STATEMENTS TO USG. INDIA NEEDS US FRIENDSHIP MORE THAN US NEEDS INDIA AND IN ANY EVENT SUPERPOWER COULD NOT BE DICTATED TO, AS DEMONSTRATED BY US REFUSAL CHANGE MIDDLE EAST POLICY DESPITE ARAB PRESSURE AND CONTINUED MILITARY AID TO GREECE IN FACE OF NATO PROTESS. PRESIDENT SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR INDIA TO ACCEPT " OUR INVITATION" FOR FURTHER TALKS RATHER HAN OVER- REACTING.

3. BHUTTO ASKED GOI TO RECALL EVENTS OF 1954, WHEN INDIANS " JUMPED AND JUMPED" OVER BEGINNING OF US ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN BUT EVENTUALLY HAD TO LIVE WITH IT. SUBSEQUENTLY INDIANS HAD MADE FURTHER " GRAVE MISCALCULATION" IN PROVOKING CHINA OVER BORDER DISPUTE, CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH " OVERSPILLED" INTO PAKISTAN.

4. US DECISION TO RESUME ARMS SUPPLY WAS MADE IN CONTEXT US/ PAK BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH REMAINS VALID ALTHOUGH DORMANT FROM 1965 TO 1967 AND FROM 1971 TO 1973, BHUTTO CONTINUED. USG HAD NEVER DENOUNCED THIS AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT MET ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS IN FULL.

5. CONCLUDING, BHUTTO URGED INDIA NOT TO RESENT SOMETHING PAKISTAN NEEDS FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE. IT WAS NOT PAKISTAN WHICH HAD COMMITTED AGGRESSION AND WAS HOLDING OTHER COUNTRY' S TERRITORIES AND POWS, HE SAID, BUT INDIA.
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